

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /075 W  
-----221206Z 065082 /20

O 221109Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 142  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY  
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY  
CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY  
CINCUSAFE PRIORITY  
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3655

BRUSSELS FOR DCM HAWTHORNE MILLS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, GR, TU, US  
SUB: GREEK VIEWS ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO  
GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: ATHENS 3625 (DTG 211507Z APR 77) (NOTAL)

1. INITIAL GREEK REACTION ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADMIN-  
ISTRATION PLANS AND POLICIES ON ARMS ASSISTANCE TO GREECE  
AND TURKEY HAS FOCUSED ON AND STRESSED THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE  
TO TURKEY. THUS, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS AND IN THE  
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PRESS THERE HAS BEEN A RATHER BITTER TONE TO THE EFFECT  
THAT THE US IS ARMING TURKEY TO THE DETRIMENT OF GREECE  
AND GREEK INTERESTS.

2. PUBLICLY, THE GOG, THROUGH A "COMPETENT SOURCE," HAS  
ONLY STATED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS NO OFFICIAL  
KNOWLEDGE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL FOR THE GRANTING

OF INCREASED INTERIM AID TO TURKEY AND GREECE. THE "SOURCE" ADDED THAT THE GOG IS AWAITING THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL BEFORE FORMING AN OPINION. GOG RADIO, IN CONTRAST TO THE PRESS, HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN NOT TO PRESS FOR APPROVAL OF THE TURKISH DCA.

3. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL GREEKS, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE ESPECIALLY BEEN HIT WITH EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER THE USG PLAN TO SUPPLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. OUR CONTACTS TEND TO OVERLOOK OTHER ITEMS IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S STATEMENT SUCH AS CYPRUS, ASSISTANCE TO GREECE, AND THE POLICY ON THE TURKISH DCA. WHILE CONCERN AND A DEGREE OF ANXIETY COME OUT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, WE ALSO NOTE THAT MUCH OF THE EMOTION AND BITTERNESS WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TURKISH DCA LAST YEAR IS ABSENT. IN ITS PLACE IS A SORT OF FATALISM THAT "WE KNEW ALL ALONG" US POLICY WOULD "REFLECT US INTERESTS IN THE AREA."

4. THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE, BASED LARGELY ON WIRE SERVICE STORIES, CONTAINED, AS A WHOLE, ACCURATE SUMMARIES AND EXTRACTS OF THE TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS BY UNDER SECRETARY BENSON AND COUNSELOR NIMETZ. THUS, THE GREEK PUBLIC IS GETTING A FULL PICTURE OF US PLANS. HOWEVER, THE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY IS CLEARLY THE MAIN ITEM FOR THE PRESS. MANY STORIES ALSO CONTAIN SPECULATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS FOR TURKISH ASSISTANCE FACE VERY TOUGH OPPOSITION IN CONGRESS. THE RECENT EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S "HARD LINE" TOWARDS TURKEY WAS ALSO REPLAYED HERE. THE LEVEL OF BITTERNESS GENERALLY RISES AS ONE MOVES FURTHER TO THE LEFT. SAMPLE HEADLINES: ELEFTEROS  
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COSMOS (RIGHT WING) "MR. CARTER ABOLISHES THE EMBARGO"; ACROPOLIS (CONSERVATIVE, PRO-GOVERNMENT) "FOLLOWING DECISION ON RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN AID, TURKS ASK FOR HALF OF THE AEGEAN"; KATHIMERINI (INDEPENDENT, PRO-GOVERNMENT) "CARTER PROPOSES EQUAL AID TO GREECE AND TURKEY"; TO VIMA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION) "AMERICAN BASE TALKS IN ATHENS...PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED MILITARY AID TO TURKEY" (SEPTEL ON TO VIMA BASE TALKS STORY FOLLOSW); AVGHI (COMMUNIST) "CARTER ALIGNS HIMSELF WITH FORD-KISSINGER"; RIZOSPASTIS (COMMUNIST, KKE-EXTERIOR) "US BLACKMAILS GREECE."

5. IN AMBASSADOR'S HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS LATE LAST EVENING AND THIS MORNING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, KEY GREEK OFFICIALS HAVE SOUGHT TO COOPERATE WITH US IN HELPING TO MODERATE PUBLIC AND CRITICAL REACTION IN GREECE. THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GREEK AND CYPRIOT EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON WERE MUCH APPRECIATED HERE, AS WAS COUNSELOR NIMETZ' CONCURRENCE IN MAKING ONE FINAL, LAST MINUTE, SMALL ADJUSTMENT IN HIS STATEMENT LATE LAST NIGHT ATHENS TIME. THE GOG IS CLEARLY HOPING THAT THE SUBJECT WILL FADE SOON AND THAT IT WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE

SOME KIND OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE MATTER. AS OF NOON TODAY (FRIDAY), ONE HIGHLY PLACED GOG OFFICIAL SAID THE REACTION THUS FAR IN GREECE WAS "NOT AS BAD AS IT COULD HAVE BEEN," BUT WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW IT IS PLAYED IN THE AFTERNOON PRESS AND OVER THE WEEKEND.  
KUBISCH

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## Message Attributes

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